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California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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**Arnold
Schwarzenegger**
Governor

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Interested Parties

PESTICIDE WATER QUALITY CRITERIA DERIVATION METHODOLOGY FOR THE PROTECTION OF AQUATIC LIFE IN THE SACRAMENTO AND SAN JOAQUIN RIVER BASINS

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Central Valley Region (Regional Water Board) has contracted the University of California, Davis (UC Davis), to identify and review existing methods for deriving pesticide water criteria for the protection of aquatic life, and, if necessary, to develop an alternative method for developing criteria. The resulting report, "Methodology for Derivation of Pesticide Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Life - Phase II, Methodology Development and Derivation of Chlorpyrifos Criteria", details a general methodology (UCD Methodology) to develop water quality criteria for pesticides for the protection of aquatic life, and provides an application of the methodology for the development of chlorpyrifos water quality criteria. In future reports, currently under development by UC Davis, the UCD Methodology will be applied to develop water quality criteria for additional pesticides. The UCD Methodology was developed as part of the larger Central Valley Pesticide TMDL and Basin Plan Amendment project, which is described in detail at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/tmdl/central_valley_projects/central_valley_pesticides/index.shtml

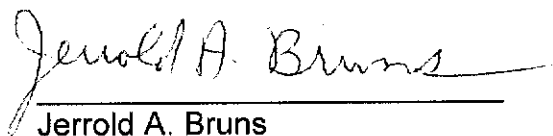
Although the development of the UCD Methodology was funded by the Regional Water Board, the UCD Methodology has not been adopted or endorsed by the Regional Water Board. Therefore criteria developed using the UCD Methodology should not be viewed as being inherently more appropriate than other available criteria. Further, criteria developed using the UCD Methodology should not be considered adopted water quality objectives, unless and until the Regional Water Board adopts, and the State Water Board and the U.S. EPA approve the criteria as water quality objectives pursuant to all applicable statutory requirements.

Regional Water Board staff intend for pesticide criteria developed using the UCD Methodology to be among the criteria considered for adoption as water quality objectives. The UCD Methodology was developed to derive criteria that are protective of aquatic life, but several additional considerations must be evaluated before pesticide water quality objectives can be adopted. First, the adopted water quality objectives must be reasonable, considering all demands being made and to be made on the water. Second, the Regional Water Board must comply with specific statutory requirements when adopting water quality objectives, which include but are not limited to the considerations specified in the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Section 13241 (which includes attainability and economic considerations), the

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State's antidegradation policy, and other applicable state and federal laws and regulations. The adoption of water quality objectives as part of a Basin Plan Amendment is done through a public process involving multiple opportunities for public input. Provided they are protective of beneficial uses and meet all other legal and regulatory requirements, the water quality objectives adopted by the Regional Water Board could be equivalent to, higher or lower than the criteria developed using the UCD Methodology.

For questions related to the application of this methodology or the Central Valley Pesticide TMDL and Basin Plan Amendment project, please feel free to contact Danny McClure at dmcclure@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 464-4751, or Joshua Grover at jgrover@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 464-4691.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerrold A. Bruns". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jerrold A. Bruns
Environmental Program Manager